



The Essential **BRITNEY SPEARS**

Britney Spears has been setting musical trends for a decade and a half — and she's still at the top of her game. With 100 million albums and counting sold worldwide to date, she brings her distinctive stamp to everything she touches. *The Essential Britney Spears* features 2 CDs packed with her biggest hits and most classic songs.

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(will.i.am and Britney Spears)

Original Recordings Produced by Benny Blanco, Billboard, Bloodshy and Avant, K. Briscoe/The Outsyders, Danja, Dr. Luke, R. Kelly, David Kreuger, Per Magnusson, Max Martin, The Neptunes, Rami, Shellback, Guy Sigsworth, Trixster, Eric Foster White and will.i.am

Compilation Produced by Jeffrey James and Darren Salmieri
Mastered by Sean Brennan at Battery Studios, New York

www.britneyspears.com
www.legacyrecordings.com

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THE ESSENTIAL BRITNEY SPEARS

When she was a youngster growing up in Kentwood, Louisiana, Britney Spears' school had a Career Day when students were asked to talk about what they wanted to do with their lives. Spears knew — but she was hesitant to reveal it to her classmates.

"I didn't want to come to school and say 'I want to be a pop star' or a singer or whatever. Everybody would be like, 'Yeah, sure, riiight!'" Spears recalled not long after she actually became one. "So I said I wanted to be an entertainment lawyer. But that's not something I want to do now. I love my music."

And fans the world over have certainly loved Spears' music since the fall of 1998, when her debut single, "...Baby One More Time," hit No. 1 in the U.S. and became a global, career-launching sensation — when she was just 16 years old. Her accomplishments since then are superstar strata and certainly merited the early-career Princess of Pop and Queen of Teen titles that were quickly bestowed upon her. Spears has sold more than 100 million albums worldwide and was named by *Billboard* magazine as the best-selling female artist of the '00s. The *...Baby One More Time* album was the top-selling debut album ever by a teenage solo artist, and its successor, 2000's *Oops!...I Did It Again* set a new record for the most first-week sales by a solo artist at more than 1.3 million copies. Every one of her seven studio albums have sold platinum or better, and six debuted at No. 1 on the *Billboard* 200.

Between 1998-2012, Spears lobbed 14 Top 20 singles into the *Billboard* Hot 100, three more of which — “Womanizer,” “3” and “Hold It Against Me” — went to No. 1. Spears has won a Grammy Award, nine Billboard Music Awards and six MTV Video Music Awards — including a Lifetime Achievement Award — along with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Her pop icon status has spread to film (2002’s *Crossroads*), TV (including the U.S. version of *The X Factor*), best-selling books (*Heart To Heart* and *A Mother’s Gift*, both with her mother Lynne) and fashion, and she’s established herself as a daring, inventive and adventurous live performer. She was even name-checked in an Eminem song, always the mark of someone who’s made a significant mark on popular culture.

And the fact that Spears has only recently entered her thirties puts all these achievements in a certain awe-inspiring relief.

“I think my fans have grown with me and will keep growing with me,” Spears has said. “They’re not putting a limit on what I want to do. I think it all boils down to good music; I think if you do that and fans can relate to you, the sky’s the limit.

“So that’s my goal, just to make good music.”



The path to that began in Kentwood, where Spears, the middle of three children, started taking dance lessons at three and soloed on "What Child Is This?" at her kindergarten graduation. She studied at the Professional Performing Arts School in New York and landed a role as an understudy in the Off-Broadway production of *Ruthless*. She also appeared on *Star Search* and in TV commercials before joining *The New Mickey Mouse Club* in 1992, joining an august cast that included fellow future stars Christina Aguilera, Ryan Gosling, Keri Russell, Tony Lucca and soon-to-be *NSYNC members J.C. Chasez and Justin Timberlake. When boy bands such as *NSYNC and Backstreet Boys brought pop back into vogue during the late '90s, Spears was perfectly positioned to lead the female charge into the new movement. Signed to Jive Records, she began working on her debut album and knew something special would happen when label executives brought her "...Baby One More Time." "All of a sudden they have this song and I'm totally blown way," Spears recalled.

It was certainly the beginning of big things as ...*Baby One More Time* made her the first new female artist to have a single and album at No. 1 on the *Billboard* charts simultaneously. The appropriately titled *Oops!...I Did It Again* showed that success was no fluke, launching hits in the title track — in which the rapidly maturing Spears memorably declared "I'm not that innocent!" — as well as "Lucky" and "Stronger." 2001's *Britney* found her emerging more as a writer, collaborating on five tracks and pursuing "a little nastier and funkier" sound with the Neptunes on "I'm A Slave 4 U" (premiered at that year's MTV Video Music Awards with a bikinied Spears dancing with an albino Burmese Python), while "I'm Not A Girl, Not Yet A Woman" addressed the challenges she faced at 19 years old.





At this juncture it was clear Spears would be no flash in the pan but rather a career artist who would grow bolder and more daring with each subsequent release – taking a more active role in both writing and supervising her albums and singing with greater assurance and maturity. On 2003's *In The Zone*, as she went toe to dance-music toe with Madonna on “Me Against The Music” and vamped her way through “Toxic” and other high-powered hits. By the time *Blackout* was released in 2007 Spears was a mother of two, and she brought that perspective to the set as she expanded her roster of collaborators and delivered some of her most personal songs to date.

The very next year *Circus* offered three rings of excitement with hits such as “Womanizer” and the teasingly provocative “If U Seek Amy,” while “3” from 2009's *The Singles Collection* kept Spears on the cutting edge of commercial club music. 2011's *Femme Fatale* showed Spears wasn't losing any of her edge, either; it was, in fact, her first album ever to yield three Top 10 singles (“Hold It Against Me,” “Till The World Ends” and “I Wanna Go”) as well as the international smash, “Criminal.”

The Essential Britney Spears ends with “Scream & Shout,” a featured appearance from Black Eyed Peas leader will.i.am's *#willpower* album that hit No. 1 in 24 countries, was proclaimed “the most exciting song I've worked on in a long time” by will himself and proved that 15 years after her first single, Spears brings an indelible, distinctive stamp to everything she touches. “My ultimate goal,” she explained when she was on the cusp of stardom, “is probably just to be around for a very, very long time, like Madonna or Janet Jackson. I would like that.” There's little doubt that she's already made it.

– Gary Graff

Gary Graff is an award-winning music journalist and author based in Detroit Rock City. He writes regularly for Billboard, the New York Times Features Syndicate, Journal Register Newspapers, Revolver and other publications and contributes to radio stations in Detroit and Milwaukee.

DISC ONE

1. ...BABY ONE MORE TIME

(M. Martin)

Produced, Recorded and Mixed by Max Martin
and Rami for Cheiron Productions

Charted (Billboard Hot 100) 11/21/98; weeks: 32; peak: #1 (2)

From *...Baby One More Time* (Jive 41651), released 1999

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2. SOMETIMES

(J. Elofsson)

Produced by Per Magnusson and David Kreuger
for Cheiron Productions

Co-produced by Jörgen Elofsson

Charted (Billboard Hot 100) 5/22/99; weeks: 20; peak: #21

From *...Baby One More Time* (Jive 41651), released 1999

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3. YOU DRIVE ME CRAZY (THE STOP! REMIX)

(J. Elofsson-P. Magnusson-D. Kreuger-M. Martin)

Produced and Mixed by Max Martin and Rami
for Cheiron Productions

Charted (Billboard Hot 100) 9/18/99; weeks: 20; peak: #10

From *Drive Me Crazy: Original Motion Picture Soundtrack*
(Jive 41692), released 1999

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4. FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY BROKEN HEART

(E.F. White)

Produced and Arranged by Eric Foster White
for www.ericfosterwhite.com

Charted (Billboard Hot 100) 1/29/00; weeks: 20; peak: #14

From *...Baby One More Time* (Jive 41651), released 1999

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5. OOPS!...I DID IT AGAIN

(M. Martin-Rami)

Produced by Max Martin and Rami for Cheiron Productions

Charted (Billboard Hot 100) 4/22/00; weeks: 20; peak: #9

From *Oops!...I Did It Again* (Jive 41704), released 2000

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6. LUCKY

(M. Martin-Rami-A. Kronlund)

Produced by Max Martin and Rami for Cheiron Productions

Charted (Billboard Hot 100) 8/12/00; weeks: 11; peak: #23

From *Oops!...I Did It Again* (Jive 41704), released 2000

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7. STRONGER

(M. Martin-Rami)

Produced by Max Martin and Rami for Cheiron Productions

Charted (Billboard Hot 100) 12/2/00; weeks: 15; peak: #11

From *Oops!...I Did It Again* (Jive 41704), released 2000

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8. I'M A SLAVE 4 U

(C. Hugo-P. Williams)

Produced by The Neptunes

Charted (Billboard Hot 100) 10/20/01; weeks: 14; peak: #27

From *Britney* (Jive 41776), released 2001

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Pharrell Williams and Chad Hugo of N.E.R.D. appear courtesy of Virgin Records
America, Inc.

9. I'M NOT A GIRL, NOT YET A WOMAN

(M. Martin-Rami-Dido)

Produced by Max Martin and Rami for Maratone Productions

From *Britney* (Jive 41776), released 2001

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10. OVERPROTECTED (THE DARKCHILD REMIX)

(M. Martin-Rami)

Produced by Max Martin and Rami for Maratone Productions

Remixed Produced by Rodney Jerkins for DARKCHILD.COM

Charted (Billboard Hot 100) 4/27/02; weeks: 5; peak: #86

Original version from *Britney* (Jive 41776), released 2001

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11. BOYS (THE CO-ED REMIX FEATURING PHARRELL
WILLIAMS OF N.E.R.D.)

(C. Hugo-P. Williams)

Produced by The Neptunes

Remix and Additional Production by The Neptunes

From *Austin Powers In Goldmember: Music From The*

Motion Picture (Maverick 48349), released 2002

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Pharrell Williams and Chad Hugo of N.E.R.D. appear courtesy of
Virgin Records America, Inc.

12. ME AGAINST THE MUSIC (FEATURING MADONNA)

(B. Spears-Madonna-C. "Tricky" Stewart-T. Nash-T. "Tab" Nkhereanye-
P. Magnet-G. O'Brien)

Produced by Trixster for RedZone Entertainment Inc.

Co-Produced by Penelope Magnet for RedZone Entertainment Inc.

Charted (Billboard Hot 100) 10/25/03; weeks: 13; peak: #35

From *In The Zone* (Jive 53748), released 2003

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Madonna appears courtesy of Warner Bros. Records

13. TOXIC

(C. Dennis-C. Karlsson-P. Winnberg-H. Jonback)

Produced and Recorded by Bloodshy
and Avant for Murlyn Music AB

Charted (Billboard Hot 100) 1/31/04; weeks: 20; peak: #9

From *In The Zone* (Jive 53748), released 2003

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14. EVERYTIME

(B. Spears-A. Stamatelatos)

Produced by Guy Sigsworth

Charted (Billboard Hot 100) 5/22/04; weeks: 18; peak: #15

From *In The Zone* (Jive 53748), released 2003

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15. OUTRAGEOUS

(R. Kelly)

Produced by R. Kelly

Charted (Billboard Hot 100) 8/14/04; weeks: 4; peak: #79

From *In The Zone* (Jive 53748), released 2003

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DISC TWO

1. MY PREROGATIVE

(B. Brown-G. Griffin-T. Riley)

Produced by Bloodshy and Avant for Murlyn Music AB
From *Greatest Hits: My Prerogative* (Jive 65294),
released 2004

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2. DO SOMETHIN'

(C. Karlsson-P. Winnberg-H. Jonback-A. Hunte)

Produced and Recorded by Bloodshy and Avant
From *Greatest Hits: My Prerogative* (Jive 65294),
released 2004

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3. GIMME MORE

(N. Hills-J. Washington-K. Hilson-M. Araica)

Produced by Danja for Danjahandz Productions Inc.
Executive Producer: Britney Spears
Charted (Billboard Hot 100) 9/22/07; weeks: 20; peak: #3
From *Blackout* (Jive 19073), released 2007

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Keri Hilson appears courtesy of Mosely Music/Zone 4/Interscope Records

4. PIECE OF ME

(C. Karlsson-P. Winnberg-K. Ahlund)

Produced by Bloodshy and Avant
Executive Producer: Britney Spears
Charted (Billboard Hot 100) 11/17/07; weeks: 20; peak: #18
From *Blackout* (Jive 19073), released 2007

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5. RADAR

(C. Karlsson-P. Winnberg-H. Jonback-E. Lewis- B. Muhammad-
C. Nelson-J. Que)

Produced by Bloodshy and Avant
Co-Produced by The Clutch
Executive Producer: Britney Spears
Charted (Billboard Hot 100) 8/29/09; weeks: 3; peak: #88
From *Blackout* (Jive 19073), released 2007
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6. BREAK THE ICE

(N. Hills-J. Washington-K. Hilson-M. Araica)

Produced by Danja for Danjahandz Productions Inc.
Executive Producer: Britney Spears
Charted (Billboard Hot 100) 3/15/08; weeks: 17; peak: #43
From *Blackout* (Jive 19073), released 2007

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Keri Hilson appears courtesy of Mosely Music/Zone 4/Interscope Records

7. HOT AS ICE

(T-Pain-N. Hills-M. Araica)

Produced by Danja for Danjahandz Productions Inc.
Arranged by T-Pain for Nappy Boy Productions, Inc.
Executive Producer: Britney Spears
From *Blackout* (Jive 19073), released 2007

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8. WOMANIZER

(N. Briscoe-R. Akinyemi)

Produced by K. Briscoe/The Outsyders
Executive Producers: Teresa LaBarbera Whites
and Larry Rudolph
Charted (Billboard Hot 100) 10/18/08; weeks: 23; peak: #1
From *Circus* (Jive 40387), released 2008
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9. CIRCUS

(L. Gottwald-C. Kelly-B. Levin)

Produced by Dr. Luke and Benny Blanco for Kasz Money
Productions, Inc.
Executive Producers: Teresa LaBarbera Whites
and Larry Rudolph
Charted (Billboard Hot 100) 12/20/08; weeks: 22; peak: #3
From *Circus* (Jive 40387), released 2008
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10. IF U SEEK AMY

(M. Martin-Shellback-S. Kotecha-A. Kronlund)

Produced by Max Martin for Maratone Productions
Executive Producers: Teresa LaBarbera Whites
and Larry Rudolph
Charted (Billboard Hot 100) 12/20/08; weeks: 20; peak: #19
From *Circus* (Jive 40387), released 2008
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11. OUT FROM UNDER

(S. Peiken-A. Birgisson-W. Hector)

Produced by Guy Sigsworth
Executive Producers: Teresa LaBarbera Whites
and Larry Rudolph
From *Circus* (Jive 40387), released 2008
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12. 3

(M. Martin-Shellback-T. Amber)

Produced by Max Martin and Shellback
for Maratone Productions
Charted (Billboard Hot 100) 10/24/09; weeks: 20; peak: #1
From *The Singles Collection* (Jive 59675), released 2009
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13. HOLD IT AGAINST ME

(M. Martin-L. Gottwald-M. Jomphe-B. McKee)

Produced by Dr. Luke for Kasz Money Productions, Inc. and
Max Martin for Maratone Productions
Co-Produced by Billboard for Kasz Money Productions, Inc.
Executive Producers: Max Martin and Dr. Luke
Charted (Billboard Hot 100) 1/29/11; weeks: 17; peak: #1
From *Femme Fatale* (Jive 85332), released 2011
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14. TILL THE WORLD ENDS

(L. Gottwald-A. Kronlund-M. Martin-K. Sebert)

Produced by Dr. Luke for Kasz Money Productions, Inc.,
Max Martin for Maratone Productions and Billboard for
Kasz Money Productions, Inc.
Executive Producers: Max Martin and Dr. Luke
Charted (Billboard Hot 100) 3/19/11; weeks: 24; peak: #3
From *Femme Fatale* (Jive 85332), released 2011
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15. I WANNA GO

(M. Martin-Shellback-S. Kotecha)

Produced by Max Martin and Shellback
for Maratone Productions
Executive Producers: Max Martin and Dr. Luke
Charted (Billboard Hot 100) 4/16/11; weeks: 20; peak: #7
From *Femme Fatale* (Jive 85332), released 2011
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16. CRIMINAL

(M. Martin-Shellback-T. Amber)

Produced by Max Martin and Shellback
for Maratone Productions
Executive Producers: Max Martin and Dr. Luke
Charted (Billboard Hot 100) 10/29/11; weeks: 6; peak: #55
From *Femme Fatale* (Jive 85332), released 2011
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17. SCREAM & SHOUT (WILL.I.AM AND BRITNEY SPEARS)

(W. Adams-J. Martens-J. Baptiste)

Produced by Lazy Jay
Additional Production by will.i.am
Executive Producers: will.i.am and Dante Santiago
Charted (Billboard Hot 100) 12/15/12; weeks: 24; peak: #3
From *#willpower* (will.i.am Music Group/Interscope
B0016466-02), released 2013
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Other Britney Spears titles:

...Baby One More Time

Oops!...I Did It Again

Britney

In The Zone

Greatest Hits: My Prerogative

B In The Mix: The Remixes

Blackout

Circus

The Singles Collection

Femme Fatale

Playlist: The Very Best Of Britney Spears

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2 CDs of
ESSENTIAL
Britney
Spears

- **32** hits & favorites
- Photos & new liner notes

FEATURING

Scream & Shout
(will.i.am & Britney Spears)

Till The World Ends

Toxic

...Baby One More Time
& more!

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The Essential BRITNEY SPEARS



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Disc 1

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